

**From:** [McKim, Krista](#)  
**To:** [Swenson, Peter](#); [Burdick, Melanie](#); [Wester, Barbara](#); [Bauer, Candice](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Back Forty Project - Menominee River Protection  
**Date:** Tuesday, October 18, 2016 8:44:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [BFF letter Back Forty Mine letter 9\\_6\\_2016.doc](#)  
[DRIFT letter \(b\)\(6\)\(b\)\(6\).doc](#)  
[NIFT Menominee Letter.doc](#)  
[GBTU Letter to MDEQ.docx](#)  
[WSA back forty letter 4848\\_001.pdf](#)  
[My 2016 letter to the MDEQ \(b\)\(6\)\(b\)\(6\).doc](#)

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FYI, Back 40 comments from citizens, fishermen, fishing clubs.

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**From:** (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)  
**Sent:** Sunday, October 16, 2016 11:06 AM  
**To:** McKim, Krista <mckim.krista@epa.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Back Forty Project - Menominee River Protection

Hi Krista,

Wife and I attended the Michigan DEQ Public Hearing on the Aquila "Back Forty Project" on October 6th. Attendance at this event is estimated to be about 300 to 400 people.

Due to time constraints only 80 +/- members were allowed to voice their opinions. Based on the number of people that wanted to express their options, but weren't allowed to, this hearing should have been continued on another day.

Support for the mine came from employees of Aquila, their existing and prospective vendors, and maybe some future employees. This was about 10 people.

Everyone else was against it (about 70 people). Based on a comment from Hal Fitch (MDEQ) before the hearing, I don't think these comments will even be considered. He said that if Aquila's application is complete (must be according to the MDEQ) the permit will be issued. That means the Public Hearing was a waste of everyone's time and Fitch and the DEQ were just satisfying an item on a MDEQ checklist. To me this means that the MDEQ hasn't changed its operating cultural as stated by Governor Snyder after the Flint Water Crisis. Its business as usual. Generate some tax revenue and not worry about protecting the Menominee River, Lake Michigan, and the area's environment. In reality they are saying "someone else will have to address the problems this mine will create", after the Governor is out of office and the MDEQ staff working on this mine permit has been hired by Aquila.

The Menominee Indian Tribe members (about 20 of them) expressed concerns about the destruction of their cultural heritage sites that are on or near the mine site. They also were concerned about the realistic probability of substantial environmental problems being created by Aquila.

Many nearby residents were afraid that a contaminated river won't allow them or their kids and grandkids to use the river. Noise will also be an issue to area residents, especially those located directly across the river from the mine.

MDEQ still privately negotiating details on the wetlands permit. Public not allowed to know

what they are doing. Supposedly a Public Hearing might take place after they've made their deal. Bad business for those of us that want to protect the Menominee River.

For some fun reading I've attached several letters from fishing clubs/groups that oppose this mine. I personally delivered these letters to the MDEQ at the Public Hearing. Hope they read them.

In another email I'm sending you my comments to the EPA about Financial Assurances. Sent these comments to the EPA via the link you sent me.

Thanks for your help.

Thanks,

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----- Original Message -----

**From:** [McKim, Krista](#)

**To:** (b)(6)(b)(6)

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 05, 2016 7:22 AM

**Subject:** RE: Back Forty Project - Menominee River Protection

Hi (b)(6)

Here is the link to information on EPA's financial assurance rulemaking effort. You can find more info by following the links contained on this page as well.

<https://www.epa.gov/superfund/superfund-financial-responsibility>

attached is the letter that our wetlands program sent to the state regarding the wetlands permit.

the NPDES program has not sent formal comments out yet. I can check with our Air program and see if they have sent any on the draft air permit.

safe travels and good luck at the hearing

Krista

Krista McKim, P.E.

Environmental Engineer

US EPA, Region 5

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**From:** (b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)(b)(6)

**Sent:** Tuesday, October 04, 2016 4:51 PM

**To:** McKim, Krista <[mckim.krista@epa.gov](mailto:mckim.krista@epa.gov)>

**Subject:** Back Forty Project - Menominee River Protection

Hi Krista,

Thanks for talking with me this afternoon about this proposed mine and its environmental issues. Hopefully the Public Hearing will make sure the MDEQ understands that no one wants this mine, other than Aquila and their vendors.

Earlier this year the Save the Wild UP entity had an online letter stating its opposition to the mine. It asked the public to support this opposition by signing this letter. The results of this online letter and another online comment arrangement produced nearly 2,000 comments. 98% of the comments were against the mine. This supports my assumption that the only folks that want the mine are Aquila and their vendors.

The attachments to this note are letters from fishing/conservation groups that have been sent via email or will be delivered by me to the MDEQ at the Public Hearing on Thursday.

The other attachment provides links to newspaper articles and information on the Menominee Indian Tribe and their opposition to this mine.

Please send me any of the EPA's reports and correspondence on the Back Forty Project that's allowed.

Tomorrow I'll send you the opposition letter I'm going to submit to the MDEQ at the Public Hearing. Need to tune it up based on our discussion. Will also send my thoughts/questions about "financial assurances".

Thanks,

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